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## 2017 DATA RELEASED FOR SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released its 2017 Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Surveillance Report. This report includes a national profile of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis trends. It also includes additional information on special populations and other STDs. View CDC's 2017 STD report and social media toolkit [here](#).

The Virginia Department of Health also released its annual STD Surveillance Report for 2017, highlighting surveillance data for chlamydia, gonorrhea, and total early syphilis in the Commonwealth. View VDH's 2017 STD report [here](#).

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## RISE OF SYPHILIS IN NEWBORNS ANOTHER SYMPTOM OF THE NATION'S STD CRISIS

The National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSD) recently put out a press release calling for federal action to address the increasing burden of STDs and their devastating consequences. Congenital syphilis, which happens when a woman passes the infection to her baby during pregnancy or during childbirth, has dire consequences. The rise of congenital syphilis parallels increases in syphilis and other STDs among adults and underscores the need for a stepped-up response to the nation's overall STD crisis. STDs have reached [record highs](#) in the U.S., increasing more than 30 percent in the last five years.

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## IN-PERSON TRAINING ANNOUNCED FOR REVISED HIV TESTING FORM

The Division of Disease Prevention (DDP) has revised the existing HIV Counseling

Testing and Referral (CTR/900) form to capture new data required by the CDC. During mid- to late November, DDP will conduct training on how to use the new form. Training sessions will be conducted in person, and will take place across the state. Further details and registration for all training sessions will be sent out by the end of this month. For more information please contact **Bryan Collins** at [bryan.collins@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:bryan.collins@vdh.virginia.gov).

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## NCSD'S BRIEF ON THE U.S. PREVENTIVE SERVICES TASK FORCE SYPHILIS SCREENING IN PREGNANT WOMEN

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The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recently released an updated Final Recommendation Statement for “Syphilis Infection in Pregnant Women: Screening.” Included in the updated [online recommendations](#) are the recommendation summary, a table of contents, considerations, discussion, and other additional information.

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## NCSD STD 101 HANDOUT & RESOURCE

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Each year the number of cases of STDs is increasing, both nationally and in the state. NCSD has created a handout available in both digital and print form. This handout covers chlamydia, congenital syphilis, gonorrhea, syphilis, and other STDs. Check out the [handout](#) and use it in your STD prevention efforts.



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## FACT SHEET: THE CRIMINALIZATION OF VIRAL HEPATITIS IN THE U.S.

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Many states across the U.S. have laws that criminalize exposure to viral hepatitis, whether it be perceived or actual. At the same time, states also prevent patients from access to treatments for viral hepatitis and limit syringe exchange programs. The National Association of County and City Health Officials has released a fact sheet entitled “Punishment is Not a Public Health Strategy: The Criminalization of Viral Hepatitis in the United States.” Read the [fact sheet](#) and learn how criminalization and restriction of prevention and treatment programs can exacerbate hepatitis infection.

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## HEPATITIS C TREATMENT PROVIDER DECISION TREE

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The National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) released “Strategies to Increase Access to Hepatitis C (HCV) Treatment within ADAPs: Provider Decision Tree,” an interactive and web-based resource to support AIDS Drug

Assistance Programs (ADAPs) in communicating their role in securing access to HCV treatment to providers. Produced as part of NASTAD's cooperative agreement with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), this resource outlines treatment coverage options available to people living with HIV and HCV, including ADAPs. Check out the resource [here](#).

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## HEPATITIS C TREATMENT OPTIONS

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VDH and the University of Virginia collaborate to train clinicians in treating patients infected with HCV. This is a great opportunity to increase access to care for clients with HCV in preparation for the removal of the Medicaid "specialist requirement" in January 2019. Fewer prior authorization restrictions coupled with Medicaid expansion will provide more opportunities for clients to seek hepatitis C treatment. If you are interested in learning more about this program, please contact **Nicole Barron** at [nicole.barron@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:nicole.barron@vdh.virginia.gov) or (804) 864-7350.

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## DDP AWARDS DIS OF THE YEAR AWARD

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The Virginia Department of Health's STD program has named **Jennifer Montemurro** "Disease Intervention Specialist of the Year." Jennifer covers New River Health District (HD), and has assisted in Roanoke, Danville and other districts in the southwest region over the past year. Jennifer came to VDH in November 2017 with eight years of DIS experience. Disease investigation statistics show Jennifer's effectiveness with a contact index (the number of partners named per patient interview conducted) and cluster index (the number of at-risk social contacts named by a patient with HIV or syphilis) much higher than the state average while handling a substantial workload and completing all interviews in a timely manner.

Jennifer has a tenacious work ethic, not stopping until she gets the job done. She recently utilized her investigative, clustering, and interviewing skills on an unusual HIV/HCV case with a high number of partners and other individuals in need of testing. Jennifer also facilitates outreach events every month for people who may be at risk, providing testing, education, and prevention counseling. Outreach locations include Radford University, Virginia Tech University, and others. Jennifer works with local providers educating them on syphilis and provides communicable disease information and education to medical and public health students interning at New River HD, even proctoring a MPH student for her practicum. In addition, Jennifer has mentored and trained new DIS over the past year. Congratulations, Jennifer!

Runners up for this award are **Bradley Cox** of Richmond City HD, **Walter Backus** of Virginia Beach HD, **Keith Grant** of Peninsula Health District, and **Dave Emerson** of Danville HD. Congratulations, keep up the great work!

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## PERSONNEL

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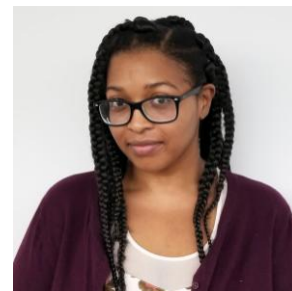
### Welcome



DDP's Surveillance, Operations, and Data Administration (SODA) welcomes **Tharun Maddu** as the Data Administration Java Programmer/Application Developer. He has over 7 years of experience in design, development, testing and implementation of client/server web applications using Java/J2EE technologies including those used in the Maven application. He will be working collaboratively with the DDP Informatics team and Maven vendor to enhance the functionality of the system. Please give him a warm welcome!

**Jimmea Preston** joined DDP as the new Routine Interstate Duplicate Review Coordinator as part of the HIV surveillance unit. Jimmea previously worked as a Mental Health Support/Intensive In-Home Counselor with the Greatness in You organization in Richmond. She has experience in assessing and counseling clients with mental health disorders, data management, collaborating with staff in developing plans and policies, and maintaining relationships with community partners. Jimmea holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Virginia State University. She is pursuing a Masters in Public Health with a concentration in Global Health and Infectious Disease from Liberty University. Jimmea can be reached at [jimmea.preston@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:jimmea.preston@vdh.virginia.gov) or (804) 864-8038.

DDP welcomes **Benjamin "Lazar" Neider**. Lazar has a Bachelor of Arts with a concentration in Human Development and Security with a minor in Public Health from the College of William and Mary. He has done public health research and community organizing in Nicaragua. Lazar is fluent in Spanish. He also interned for Senator Mark Warner providing counseling to Virginia veterans. He enjoys time with his family and dogs. Lazar can be reached at [benjamin.neider@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:benjamin.neider@vdh.virginia.gov) or (804) 864-8010.



**Ebonye Jones** joins DDP as a member of the Central Registry Unit. Ebonye attended Virginia Commonwealth University to study economics and business. Soon after, she began her employment with SunTrust Bank. Her most recent and meaningful position before joining the team was being a full-time mom to her handsome 2-year-old, Angel. You can reach Ebonye at (804) 864-7357.

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## PERSONNEL SPOTLIGHT: MEET THE HIV COUNSELING, TESTING, AND REFERRAL (CTR) DATA TEAM

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The HIV CTR Data staff is responsible for extensive quality assurance review and data entry of all Counseling, Testing and Referral forms received from community, clinical, pharmacy, and health department testing sites statewide. Additional tasks undertaken by the team include the development and dissemination of testing data

reports for program evaluation purposes.



Pictured from left to right: Tanai Holcombe-Iroins, Myrashell Thompson, Kathleen Wallen-Moon, Chaitali Roy, and Laura Stokes.

**Chaitali Roy**, CTR Data Manager, serves as the team leader. She joined DDP in 2009 as a Statistical Analyst. In addition to providing supervisory support to the team, she also prepares analytical reports assessing program efficacy and contributes to program development efforts with other DDP units. Chaitali can be reached at [chaitali.roy@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:chaitali.roy@vdh.virginia.gov), or (804) 864-8063.

**Kathleen Wallen-Moon** and **Tanai Holcombe-Iroins** are the CTR quality assurance analysts; they oversee the initial receipt, management and comprehensive quality review of all documents received within the DDP CTR data office. Kathleen joined DDP in 2014; you can reach her at [kathleen.wall@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:kathleen.wall@vdh.virginia.gov), or (804) 864-7971. You may contact Tanai at [tanai.holcombe-iroins@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:tanai.holcombe-iroins@vdh.virginia.gov), or (804) 864-7933.

**Laura Stokes** and **Myrashell Thompson** are the team's Data Entry Specialists. Laura has a great deal of cross-program experience, having served in several data entry/quality assurance capacities since joining DDP in 1996. Myrashell has also contributed to additional DDP units since joining DDP's HIV Care Services unit in 2007. Laura can be reached at [laura.stokes@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:laura.stokes@vdh.virginia.gov), or (804) 864-7984; Myrashell can be reached at [myrashell.thompson@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:myrashell.thompson@vdh.virginia.gov), or (804) 864-7985.

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